140 YEARS YMCA 1886 2026 Here for generations

**1886**

**12/10/1886**
First YMCA meeting takes place in the Coffee Tavern, followed by Bible study and prayer every Sunday and Thursday

**25/09/1886**
Gathering at 101 High Street to 'consider the spiritual condition of the men of the town,' concluding that a YMCA should be formed'

**1886**

**1889**

Watford YMCA moves into new premises at 181 High St

Watford YMCA begins sports programme with cricket match against Forest Gate YMCA

**1882**

**1903**

Sir George Williams visits Watford (he laid a foundation stone at Watford Congregational Church – demolished in the 1970's)

WWI – YMCA supports troops with tea dances from a hut in Watford High street with help from local Churches

**1918**

**1919**

YMCA Red Triangle Club formed as place for 'recreation, amusement and the development of Christian manliness.'

Apsley Lodge opens with outdoor games area, supported by auctioning of art from the Queen Mothers private collection

**1949**

**1962**

1962 – Apsley Lodge demolished and new building opened by Lord Snowdon. It had a gym, coffee lounge and 84 rooms of accommodation.

**1/06/1967**
Welwy Garden City YMCA opens Peartree Hostel

**1967**

**1978**

**21/02/2078**
Charter House Watford opened by HRH The prince of Wales

100th Anniversary celebrations

**1986**

**1993**

High Wycombe YMCA opens

Bishop Stortford YMCA opens

**1994**

**1998**

Charters Nursery opens

**12/11/1**
Prime Minister Gordon Brown opens Children's Centre

**2008**

**2014**

Early Childhood Partnership forrmed

Early Childhood Partnership

One YMCA formed

**2017**

**2022**

Airplay comes under the YMCA umbrella

airplay

Signpost joins One YMCA

Signpost

**2023**

**2024**

Dignify comes under the YMCA umbrella

Dignify

**2026**

140th Anniversary celebrations

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